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Histoire des corporations de métiers depuis leurs origines jusqu'à leur suppression en 1791, suivie d'une étude sur l'évolution de l'idée corporative au XIXe siècle et sur les syndicats professionnels. Par ÉTIENNE MARTIN SAINT-LÉON. Paris, Guillaumin, 1897.—671 pp.

Students of the history of the labor movement in France have hitherto been obliged to depend upon the masterly work of Levasseur, *Les Classes ouvrières en France*, published almost forty years ago. Since that time a considerable mass of additional material has come to light, and many new points of view have been suggested. It is time to discuss the subject anew and to bring the earlier history into closer connection with modern times. This has been attempted, and on the whole accomplished with a fair degree of success, by M. Saint-Léon in his history of the French guilds.

His account of the origin of the craft guilds does not contain anything essentially new, being based upon the well-accredited authorities; but his discussion of the French guilds is marked, not only by continual reference to the original sources, but also—and what is more to the point—by a very convenient and methodical arrangement of material. Beginning with the guilds in the thirteenth century, M. Saint-Léon gives a clear account of the nature of the institution, of the rights and duties of masters and journeymen, of the whole mediæval regulation of labor, and of the general characteristics of each trade. In successive books the history is followed from century to century.

The chief points of interest in these books are the statistics of the guilds and of the economic condition of the workmen, and the survey of the guilds in the provinces. All this is clearly put and well arranged. When we come to the temporary abolition of the guilds by Turgot, and to their final suppression in the Revolution, we are dealing with more familiar matter. But here also the exposition is lucid. Special attention should be called to the study of the *cahiers* of the different electoral assemblies at the time of the Revolution, showing very clearly the arguments of the time both for and against the guilds.

Economic historians will not always agree with M. Saint-Léon, however, in his earlier interpretations—as, for instance, in his discussion of the total disappearance of the old Roman corporations in the eleventh and twelfth centuries (p. 51); or in his refusal to go behind the letter of the regulation in the mediæval limitation of apprenticeship (p. 73). His Teutonic friends also will take exception to his discussion of the Alsatian guilds at various periods when Alsace had nothing to do with France.

When we come to the second part of the book, which deals with the history and the future of the corporate idea, we touch far more debatable ground. The historical part, indeed, is very well done, more especially the history of the various opinions as to the development of the labor unions. This is a distinct addition to our knowledge of the period. But M. Saint-Léon looks into the future as well as the past. The ideal of the author is an association which includes both capitalist and laborer — which is not exactly like the trade union of England, or the mediæval guild.

The union of the future [, says he,] should be a *conseil de prud-hommes*, a board of conciliation, a society of mutual insurance against accidents, old age and non-employment, a species of savings-bank, a society of information, a group of studies.

M. Saint-Léon's ideal is undoubtedly a noble one. But he fails to tell us exactly how all this is to be brought about, and how the longed-for social harmony is to be attained. In a country like France, however, trades-unionism is still so "suspect" that his work will undoubtedly bear good fruit. Even those who do not share his ideals will welcome the facts and the history of ideas, as well as of institutions, which he has so clearly and so successfully put together.

E. R. A. SELIGMAN.

Studies in the Civil Law and its Relations to the Law of England and America. By WILLIAM WIRT HOWE, sometime a Justice of the Supreme Court of Louisiana and W. L. Storrs Professor of Municipal Law in Yale University for the year 1894. Boston, Little, Brown & Co., 1896. — xv, 340 pp.

The Storrs professorship at Yale seems likely to produce not a few books. Judge Dillon's *Laws and Jurisprudence of England and America*, reviewed in this QUARTERLY six months ago, was a revision of his New Haven lectures; and we now have Judge Howe's course, expanded and rearranged, and furnished with citations of some decisions rendered since 1894. It is Judge Howe's effort to show by comparison the frequent similarity of the ancient Roman, the modern civil and the English common law, and by inference the probable derivation from the civil law of many of the principles and rules of the English law.

The presentation of the Roman law is hardly up to date. Judge Howe refers, for a reconstruction of the XII Tables, to Ortolan, ignoring the work of Schöll (1866), the results of which are con-